

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

PASS MOUNTAIN LOOP TRAIL 282

RANGER DISTRICTS

Mesa Ranger Station
5140 E. Ingram Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
Phone (480) 610-3300 Fax (480) 610-3346

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS

Usery Mountain Park
3939 N. Usery Pass Road
Mesa, Arizona 85207

TRAILHEAD (TH)

Usery Mountain Park: From Mesa, travel east for 10 miles on the Superstition Freeway, (US 60) to Ellsworth/Usery Mtn. Pass Road/Forest Road (FR) 207. Travel north 6 miles to Usery County Park entrance and turn right into the park.

TERMINI

Elevation: 1900 feet at staging area, southeast of the picnic area

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Moderate

Trail difficulty: More difficult

Trail length: 7 miles

Season of Use: Spring - fall

USGS maps: Apache Junction

Elevation change: 690 feet

ATTRACTIONS

- The northwest end of the trail passes through superb Sonoran Desert vegetation.
- The trail offers magnificent views of the Mazatzal, Usery, Goldfield and McDowell mountains.
- In the spring, annual wildflowers are in bloom. With optimum weather, flowers cover the mountain slopes with bright colors.

southeast corner of the Usery Mountain Park Road system. The trail proceeds east across a major wash. At mile 0.1, trail users will find a sign marking the seven-mile loop. The trail enters the Tonto N. F. and goes east; it is essentially level for about two miles along the south side of Pass Mountain. The trail then begins a steep and rocky ½-mile climb to the pass. Bike and horse riders should dismount and walk to the top. From the pass, the trail begins a gradual descent, crossing large and small washes. It curves around the mountain in a quarter circle to the trail's most northern point, which is about 1½ mile beyond the pass. Eventually the trail re-crosses the Usery Mountain Park/Tonto N.F. boundary, where it has an easy downhill grade. Shortly after the junction with the Wind Cave Trail 281, the trail passes back into Usery Mtn. Park for the final 0.6 mile to the original junction.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Practice "Leave No Trace" ethics including: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Not** recommended for horses
- After a rain, travel can be difficult
- Hot summer temperatures require trail users to take precautions.
- For the steepest, most difficult sections of the trail (ascending the pass), bike and horse riders should dismount and walk.
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, a protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.

FEES

Usery Mountain Park is a Maricopa County Park and requires an entry fee. For further information: (480) 984-0032



TRAIL NARRATIVE

This trail starts at the staging area that is at the